

Although the number of white businesses did not increase, the locations of white businesses did significantly change. There were no longer white businesses in the 4th Street Market in the black section of town. White business interests became more consolidated in the downtown district, particularly along Front Street. The number of white businesses on Front Street increased by eighty-five while the number of black businesses there decreased.

Study of the business addresses for the white business owners that left the city by 1900 demonstrates that those businesses were scattered across the city but still concentrated on the central business district. Overall there were 405 white businesses that left the city after the riots. Although this may seem like a very high number, it does not reflect the true picture. Unlike most of the black business entries, not all of the white business listings can be attributed to a particular individual or group of individuals that were residents in Wilmington. For example, large publicly held companies or large companies with branches in many cities would be listed in the directory as a white business if the business was not owned by a black proprietor. However, this does not directly reflect the loss of a business by a citizen. It more reflects the willingness of outside investors or businesses to invest and conduct business in the city after the riots.